

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 1942

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP (STEVENSON, ADLAI)

SUBJECT: CODEL STEVENSON'S VISIT TO CAIRO

REF: STATE 28668

1. SENATOR ADLAI STEVENSON ACCOMPANIED BY STAFF ASSISTANT WILLIAM BUELL, PAID BRIEF VISIT TO CAIRO FEBRUARY 11-13. DUE TO LATE ARRIVAL

FEBRUAR 11 AND EARLY DEPARTURE FEBRUARY 13 HE HAD ONLY ONE WORKING DAY FOR MEETINGS AND BRIEFINGS. BECAUSE PRESIDENT SADAT WAS ILL AND CONFINED TO HIS BED, SENATOR STEVNESON SAW VICE PRESIDENT HOSNI MUBARAK. AFTER EMBASSY BRIEFING SENATOR ALSO ATTENDED LUNCHEON HOSTED BY DEPUATH SPEAKER GAMAL OTEIFY OF THE PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY. ALL THREE CAIRO NEWSPAPER EDITORS-IN-CHIEF ATTENDED AS WELL AS OTHER PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY MEMBERS. CODEL THEN MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMY AND PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY SPEAKER SAYED MAREI. AT SUGGESTION CLOVIS MAKSOUD, PLO MEMBER ACTIVE IN US, SENATOR HIMSELF ARRANGED TO MEET WITH MUHAMMAD HASSAIN KEYKAL PRIVATELY. CONVERSATION WITHFOREIGN MINISTER REPORTED SEPTTEL.

2. MAIN SUBSTANTIVE REASON FOR CODEL STEVENSON'S VISIT WAS TO PROBE EGYPTIAN THINKING RE FURTHER STEPS TOWARD PEACE IN THE AREA AND EXPLAIN BACKGROUND TO HIS NEW BOYCOTT LEGISLATION. DURING MEETINGS HE EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND SAID HE SEES NEED FOR ARMS SALES TO EGYPT.

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3. IN MEETING WITH MUBAREK, VP STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF ECONOMIC

ASSISTANCE AND MADE PLEAS FOR MILITARY SALES. BUAREK EXPLAINED SOVIETS HAVE RECENTLY CUT OFF ALL BUT A VERY SMALL FLOW OF SPARE PARTS TO EGYPT. EGYPT NEEDS DEFENSIVE WEAPONS. BUAREK SAID EGYPT SOUGHT SPARE PARTS FROM INDIA, BUT SOVIETS BLOCKED THAT ROUTE TOO. CHINESE, MUBAREK SAID HAD PROVIDED ABOUT 20 TO 25 MIG 17 AIRCRAFT ENGINES AS A GIFT, REPORTEDLY AFTER URGING FROM SECRETARY KISSINGER. CODEL ASKED IF THERE IS A SHOPPING LIST, MUBAREK REPLIED EGYPT NEEDS PLANES AND OTHER DEFENSIVE WEAPONS, BUT WAS UNSPECIFIC. CODEL SAID FOREIGN ASSISTANCE BILL WOULD LIKELY PASS, PROVIDING ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, FURTHER HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD NEED FOR MILITARY SALES. IN REPLY TO CODEL'S QUESTION ABOUT FUNDS FOR MILITARY SALES, MUBAREK SAID THAT EGYPT WOULD GET MONEY FROM OTHER ARAB NATIONS AND WOULD PAY CASH.

4. AT LUNCHEON WITH PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY MEMBERS AND NEWS-PAPER EDITORS, CODEL WAS TACKLED ON HIS BOYCOTT LEGISLATION. OTEIFY SAID THAT HE HAD HEARD COMPLAINTS FROM AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN THAT BILL WOULD HAVE AN ADVERSE EFFECT ON TRADE AND COMMERCE WITH THE ARAB WORLD. CODEL SPECIFICLY DENIED THAT HIS LEGISLATION HAD ANY INTENTION OF RESTRAINING AMERICAN BUSINESS ANYWHERE. ON THE CONTRARY, HE DESCRIBED HIS LEGISLATION AS MODERATE AND WARNED THAT IN AN ELECTION YEAR, IF THE ISSUE IS NOT HANLDED RESPONSIBLY, STRICTER, EVEN UNFRIENDLY, LEGISLATION MIGHT RESULT. HE SAID THAT ONLY PROHIBITION IN HIS BILL WAS AGAINST TERTIARY BOYCOTT IN WHICH AN AMERICAN COMPANY WAS TOLD IT COULD NOT DO BUSINESS WITH ANOTHER AMERICAN COMPANY IN U.S. FOR BOYCOTT REASONS. SENATOR SAID THAT TIS IDEA IS REPUGNANT TO AMERICAN PEOPLE AND BILL WAS DESIGNED PRIMAILY TO STOP THIS PRACTICE. WHEN PRESSED ON HOW MANY ACTIONS OF THIS TYPE HAD HAPPENED, CODEL CITED INSTANCS IN WHICH A CONSTITUENT HAD BEEN INVOLVED. HE WENT ON TO SAY, HOWEVER, THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO KNOW HOW MANY TIMES THIS HAS HAPPENED BECAUSE HE FOUND THAT, WHEN HE CHECKED THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE RECORDS, THEY COULD NOT BE DISCLOSED TO HIM. HIS BILL, THEREFORE, PROVIDES FOR PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF ALL ACTIONS RELATED TO THE BOYCOTT. EDITORS, AS WELL AS ASSEMBLY MEMBERS TOLD CODEL THEY MIGHT NOT HAVE TROUBLE WITH LEGISLATION PER SE BUT THAT TIMING IS BAD, GIVEN NEW U.S. POLICY ROLE IN ARAB WORLD. CODEL REPEATED THAT PRESSURE IS GROWING FOR THIS LEGISLATION IN ELECTION YEAR, HENCE, IT CANNOT BE CONFIDENTIAL

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DELAYED. IN RESPONSE TO CODEL'S QUESTION RE NEXT STEPS, ALL PRESENT FELT A FURTHER DISENGAGEMENT ON GOLAN IS NECESSARY BEFORE RECONVENING OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, BUT EMPHASIZED THIS MUST HAPPEN SOON. EGYPTIANS EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT SYRIAN EFFORTS TO OUST ARAFAT WILL BRING PLO MODERATES UNDER RADICAL AWAY AND, THEREFORE, FURTHER COMPLICATE THE PLO PROBLEM.

5. DURING MEETING WITH ASSEMBLY SPEAKER MAREI, CODEL MADE

SIMILAR POINTS (PARA 6) RE HIS BOYCOTT LEGISLATION. MAREI SAID THAT SUCH LEGISLATION WOULD BE VIEWED AS UNFRIENDLY ACT, ESPECIALLY AT THIS TIME. HE URGED SENATOR DELAY BILL UNTIL AFTER PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS. CODEL SAID THAT BECAUSE THIS IS AN ELECTION YEAR IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO DELAY BEYOND ELECTIONS, BUT HE DID SAY THAT IT MIGHT POSSIBLY BE POSTPONED A FEW MONTHS. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THERE IS RENEWED PRESSURE, ALL OVER AMERICA, FOR ACTION AGAINST THE BOYCOTT AND HIS LEGISLATION IS THE MOST RESPONSIBLE TREATMENT OF THE ISSUE THAT WILL BE FORTHCOMING.

6. SAYED MAREI THEN REVIEWED STEPS TAKEN SINCE 1973 IN SEARCH FOR PEACE AND DESCRIBED DELICATE SITUATION OF EGYPT NOW IN TERMS OF ECONOMIC AND INTERNAL PROBLEMS. HE SAID THAT THERE MUST BE SOME FURTHER MOVEMENT ON THE PEACE PROCESS OTHERWISE STAGNATION IN BOTH AREAS, I.E., ON BOTH DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICY FRONTS, WOULD CREATE A SITUATIONWHICH WOULD THREATEN THE STABILITY OF EGYPT AND ITS SEARCH FOR PEACE IN MIDDLE EAST. PROGRESS IN ONE OF THESE AREAS WOULD HELP EASE PRESSURE ON THE OTHER IN THE SHORT TERM. MAREI CRITICIZED THE SYRIANS FOR TRYING TO GET CONTROL OF THE PLO LEADERSHIP BY UNDERMINING ARAFAT. MAREI SAID THAT ARAFAT IS MODERATE, BUT IF SYRIANS TRY TO TAKE OVER, THE MODERATE PALESTINIANS WILL ALLY WITH RADICALS TO SAVE ORGANIZATION FROM BEING SWALLOWED BY SYRIANS AND RADICALS WILL GAIN SUPPER HAND. CODEL ASKED WHAT IS THE NEXT STEP IN THE MIDDLE EAST, EXPLAINING THAT HE HAS DISAGREED WITH THE STEP BY STEP APPROACH AND ESPECIALLY CITING FACT THAT HE VOTED AGAINST THE SINAI SUPPORT MISSION BECAUSE HE THOUGH SINAI II WOULD ONLY CONTRIBUTE TO A FURTHER STALEMATE IN THE SITUATION. MAREI SAID THAT HE THINKS THAT ASAD WANTS ANOTHER DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT, WHICH WILL THEN ENABLE HIM TO GO TO GENEVA. SENATOR REPEATED IS BELIES THAT HIS COLLEAGUES IN THE SENATE UNDERSTAND THE NEED FOR ARMS SALES TO EGYPT.

7. SENATOR STEVENSON INDICATED HE FOUND HIS BRIEF VISIT TO
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CAIRO USEFUL IN THAT IT BOTH GAVE HIM OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR VIEWS OF LEADING EGYPTIAN PERSONALITIIES AND ALSO TO EXPLAIN AIM AND LIMITED IMPACT OF HIS BILL ON BOYCOTT. EILTS

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